



Louisiana Public Service Commission

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October 25, 2016

Commissioner Jay Dardenne
Division of Administration
101 N. 3rd Street, Suite 7-210
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

To Whom It May Concern,

House Concurrent Resolution 25 by Representative John Schroder urges and requests each department of the executive branch of state government to submit a report that outlines the initiatives the department will take to ensure a more efficient operation for future fiscal years. This letter is the official report for the Department of Public Service.

The Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) is a governmental regulatory agency established by the Louisiana Constitution mandated to "regulate all public utilities and common carriers". The LPSC is comprised of five elected Commissioners representing five distinct geographic districts, serving six-year terms. The chief executive officer of the LPSC is appointed by the LPSC and responsible to the Commissioners for the day-to-day operations. The LPSC is divided into four (4) Programs for budgeting purposes: Administrative, Support Services, Motor Carrier, and District Offices. Each Commissioner has a "district office" staff. Additionally, a central staff located in Baton Rouge contains the administrative, support and motor carrier personnel. The total number of T.O. authorized for the LPSC, including the five elected Commissioners is 99. The LPSC is a rather small commission, compared to other state agencies and public service/utility commissions in other states. The LPSC currently regulates approximately 2,000 public utilities and common carriers. No other state agency or department performs the functions or exercises the constitutional and statutory control of the Public Service Commission on a statewide basis. Therefore, there is no duplication of effort due to the unique statutes and constitutional authority of the Commission.

The LPSC is 100% self-funded by the statutory dedicated fees it collects exclusively from Commission-regulated entities. The Commission receives no general fund money. The LPSC can only spend the money it collects regardless of the appropriated budget so LPSC Staff

strives to identify efficiencies and savings in all areas of our department. Over the past few years, the LPSC has implemented the following cost-saving measures: 1) Changes to the Commissioners' district offices connectivity to the main office network resulted in increased connection speed at a reduced cost; 2) Reduction of phone lines and voicemail; 3) Consolidation of copiers and printers; 4) Cancelled agency memberships in professional organizations; 5) Reduced agency fleet by over 50%; and 6) Cancelled subscriptions to professional publications.

We will continue to strive to identify efficiencies and savings within our department. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eve Gonzalez', written in a cursive style.

Eve Gonzalez, Executive Secretary
Louisiana Public Service Commission

cc: Task Force on Structural Changes in Budget and Tax Policy
Louisiana Legislature